



Highway Administrator's Report

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June 2019

Tobin Bridge / Chelsea Curves Update



Tobin Bridge

- On schedule
- 4th Street ramp closed during the week of July 8th
- Demolition of deck complete

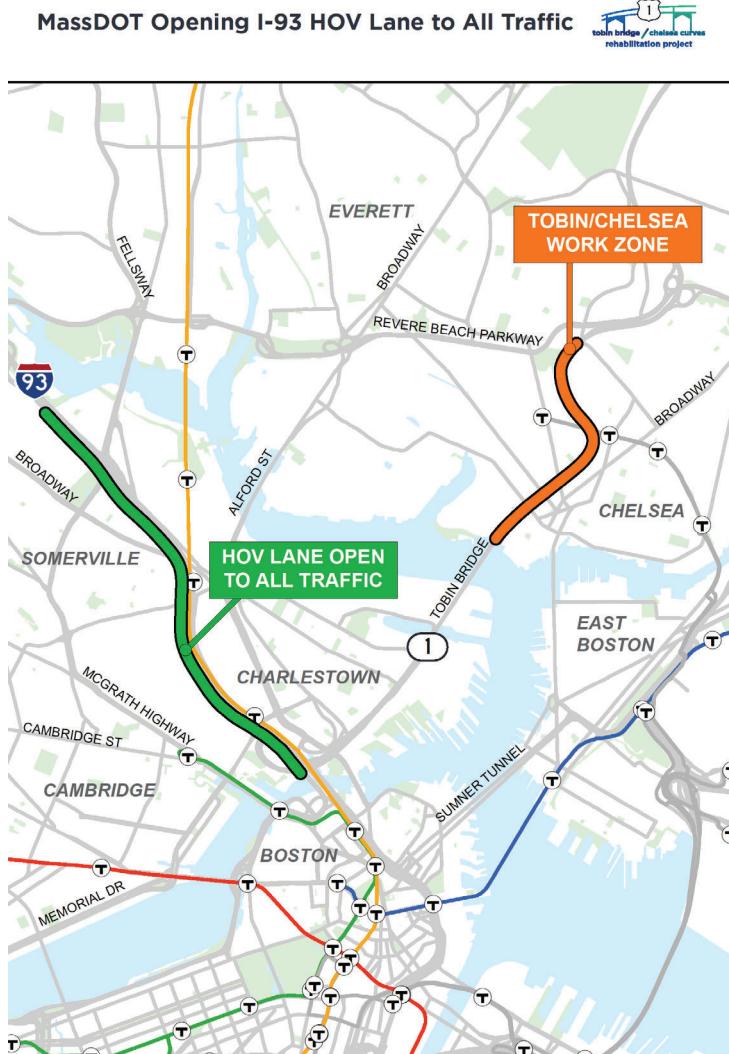


Chelsea Curves

- On schedule
- June 23rd – NB lane shifts from Right travel lane to middle travel lane
- Median demolition completed and paving

Tobin Bridge / Chelsea Curves

HOV Lane Update



Overview:

- Allows all vehicles use of the lane 24/7
 - Southbound only
- Temporary measure to alleviate impacts of:
 - Tobin/Chelsea
 - North Washington Street Bridge
 - GLX – full bridge closures/detours
- May be in place for 2 years (for Tobin/Chelsea)
- No plan/intention to make this permanent
- Ongoing monitoring

Other mitigation efforts:

- Additional MBTA Blue Line trains
- Free inbound SL service from Chelsea
- CharlieCards accepted on Commuter Rail
 - Between Chelsea and North Station

Tobin Bridge / Chelsea Curves HOV Lane Monitoring



Pre-Implementation:

- Evaluated I-93 SB approaching Boston
 - Developed a detailed FREEVAL Work Zone model
 - Traffic counts and driver's behavior
 - Determined there was capacity with entry to HOV causing additional friction

On-Going Monitoring and Data Analysis:

- Starting June 19th traffic counts will be taken specific to "Express Lane"
- Evaluating permanent counting stations to see how/if traffic has changed
- Route 1A toll gantry to see if there is a reduction in volume
- Moving people vs. moving vehicles
 - Partnering with CTPS to count passengers in vehicles prior and post implementation
- MBTA Coordination
 - Monitoring bus travel times
 - Using GPS data to track pre/post travel times
 - Currently varied delays of 5 to 10 minutes both SB and NB

Sumner Tunnel – Swing Gate Activation

- Monday, June 17
 - Activation of the swing gate and digital signage will be activated
- Same used on I-93 HOV lane

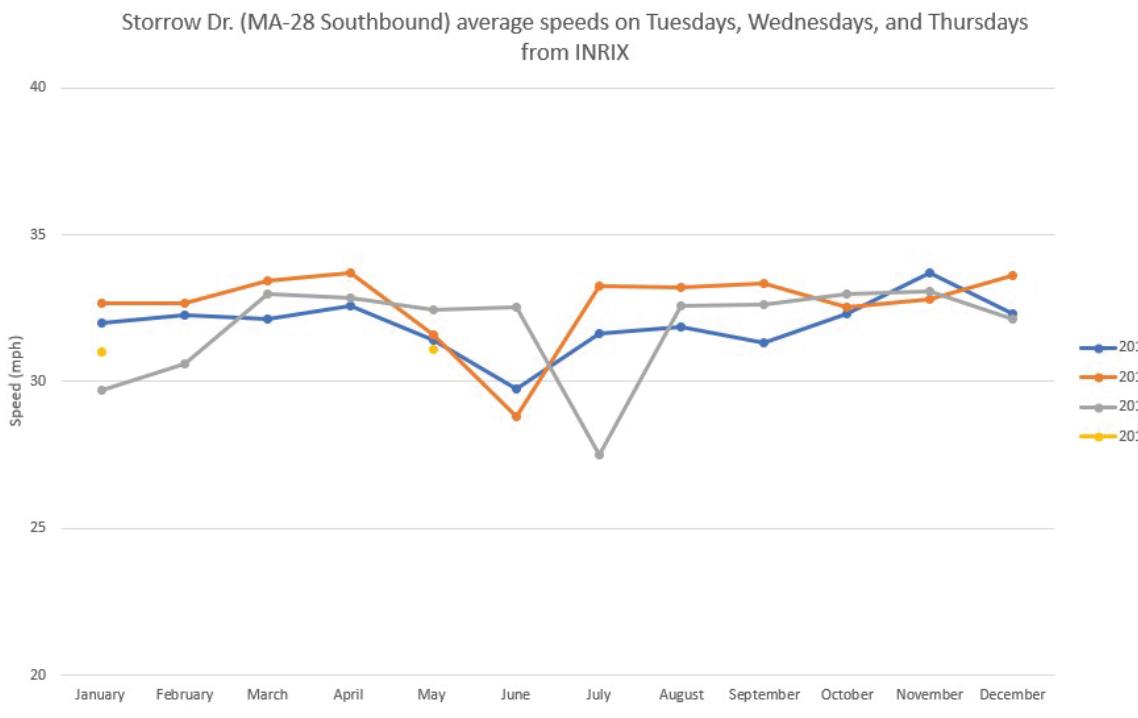


Storrow Drive Restriping

- Pilot started November 29, 2018
- Eliminates unsafe weave and lane changes from exit only lane
- Allows drivers to stay in their lane
- Processes additional capacity through the Sumner Tunnel
- Eases gridlock traffic in East Boston



Storrow Drive Restriping From Pilot to Permanent



The Pilot has shown:

- Improved or maintained travel speeds
- Improved or maintained the number of vehicles processed
- Greatest Benefit = Safety
 - Significant reduction in crashes (preliminary data)



Encore Boston Harbor Opening

- Opening on June 23, 2019
 - Estimated 100k people
 - Anticipated travel delays
- Variable Message Boards:
 - Coordinated from Methuen to Peabody
 - Phased messaging leading up to the opening
 - Using existing boards – any additional were permitted through the casino
 - Advising people to take the MBTA and to expect delays
- Coordination
 - Started months ago
 - Involved state agencies
 - Municipalities
 - Command Post
 - MassDOT will have senior staff there for the first few days

